

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information selection method selecting desired information from a plurality of information represented by sounds, comprising the steps of:

storing an association between each of a plurality of information and at least one sound,

time-controlling a position of each sound independently, and selecting a sound,

wherein said step of selecting sound includes the step of selecting information associated with sound, and

controlling volume in association with the position of each sound, wherein the step of selecting information is a single operation of selecting a sound of the maximum volume, and the sound of the maximum volume is selected when the user enters a sound selection indication.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 1, wherein said step of controlling the position of each sound independently includes the step of arranging the position of each said sound on a circumference of substantially a circle to move in an orbit.

4. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

commanding a position change of all of said sounds faster than a normal time control, and

returning the sound to a former position.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 1, wherein said step of selecting information is an operation of directly selecting a sound of interest.

7. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying an image corresponding to each information at a position corresponding to said each sound.

8. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 7, wherein said step of selecting information includes the step of selecting an image corresponding to said each sound.

9. (Currently Amended) An information selection apparatus selecting desired information, and including a sound source, said information selection apparatus comprising:

means for storing an association between each of a plurality of information and at least one sound,

means for time-controlling a position of each sound independently, and

means for selecting sound,

wherein said sound selection means selects information associated with said sound, ~~and~~

wherein each sound is associated with only one information, and

means for controlling volume in association with the position of each sound, wherein selecting information is a single operation of selecting a sound of the maximum volume, and the sound of the maximum volume is selected when the user enters a sound selection indication.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing instructions, executed by a processor, to perform the method of:~~in which a program is recorded to cause a computer to operate means for~~

storing an association between each of a plurality of information and at least one sound, ~~means for time-controlling a position of each sound independently, and means for selecting~~ desired sound from a plurality of sounds, and

controlling volume in association with the position of each sound, wherein selecting information is a single operation of

selecting a sound of the maximum volume, and the sound of the maximum volume is selected when the user enters a sound selection indication.

11. (Currently Amended) An information selection apparatus, based on a plurality of sounds, allowing selection of ~~selecting a desired signal from signals associated with respective said information source from a plurality of sounds~~ information sources, ~~and including a sound source,~~ said information selection apparatus comprising:

~~means for sequentially switching said plurality of information sources as audio information and presenting the audio information by said sound source, and~~

~~means for selecting audio information relevant to a desired information source from the presented audio information~~

sound presentation means, indication means, selecting means, and control means, wherein

said signal includes at least an operation indication signal,

said operation indication signal indicating an operation set in correspondence with each said operation indication signal,

said sound presentation means outputs said plurality of sounds circularly in accordance with an elapse in time,

said indication means provides a select indication operated from an external source to said selecting means,

said selecting means selects, based on sound presented when said select indication is provided, said signal associated with said sound, and

said control means performs an operation set in correspondence with said operation indication signal when said signal selected by said selecting means is said operation indication signal.

12. (Original) The information selection apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for commanding switching of said audio information.

13. (Original) The information selection apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said switching command means commands presentation of audio information presented after the audio information that is currently presented or presentation of audio information that is presented prior to the audio information that is currently presented.

14. (Original) The information selection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information source retains information other than audio information and presents said other information when the desired audio information is selected.

15. (Original) The information selection apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said information source retains information other than audio information, and sequentially switches and presents said other information in accordance with switching of said audio information.

16. (Currently Amended) An information selection method, based on a plurality of sounds, allowing selection of a ~~selecting~~ desired signal information source from a ~~signals associated with~~ respective said plurality of ~~sounds~~ information sources, comprising:

~~a first step of sequentially switching and presenting said plurality of information sources as audio information, and~~

~~a second step of selecting audio information relevant to a desired information source from the presented audio information~~

associating an operation with each said operation indication signal,

outputting said plurality of sounds circularly in accordance with an elapse in time,

providing a select indication operated from an external source,

selecting, based on sound presented when said select indication is provided, said signal associated with said sound, and

performing an operation set in correspondence with said operation indication signal when said selected signal is said operation indication signal.

17. (Original) The information selection method according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of information sources are categorized in advance into predetermined types, and further comprising the step of gradually narrowing down information out from categorized information sources by repeatedly employing said first and second steps.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium storing instructions, executed by a processor, to perform the method of:~~in which a program is recorded to cause a computer to~~

associating an operation with each said operation indication signal,

outputting said plurality of sounds circularly in accordance with an elapse in time,

providing a select indication operated from an external source,

selecting, based on sound presented when said select indication is provided, said signal associated with said sound, and

performing an operation set in correspondence with said operation indication signal when said selected signal is said

~~operation indication signal—operate means for sequentially switching a plurality of information sources and presenting the audio information by sound source, and means for selecting information relevant to a desired information source from the presented audio information.~~

19.-29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein time-controlling a position of each sound independently includes time-controlling a position of each sound topic independently.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein time-controlling a position of each sound independently includes time-controlling a position of each sound topic independently.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein time-controlling a position of each sound independently includes time-controlling a position of each sound topic independently.

33. (Previously Presented) The information selection method of claim 1, wherein the selection step is repeated until the desired sound is selected.

34. (Previously Presented) The information selection apparatus of claim 9, wherein the sound selection means provides for repeatedly selecting information associated with the sound until the desired sound is selected.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable recording medium of claim 10, wherein ~~the means for selecting~~ the desired sound from the plurality of sounds further provides for repeatedly selecting desired sounds until a final desired sound is selected.

36. (Previously Presented) The information selection apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for selecting audio information relevant to a desired information source from the presented audio information further provides for repeatedly selecting audio information relevant to a desired information source until a desired audio information is selected.

37. (Previously Presented) The information selection method of claim 16, wherein the second step is repeated until a desired audio information is selected.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer readable recording medium of claim 18, wherein the means for selecting information

relevant to the desired information source from the presented audio information further provides for repeatedly selecting information relevant to the desired information source until a final desired sound is selected.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) An information selection apparatus selecting desired information, and including a sound source, said information selection apparatus comprising:

means for storing an association between each of a plurality of information and at least one sound,

means for time-controlling a position of each sound independently, and

means for selecting sound,

wherein said sound selection means selects information associated with said sound,

wherein each sound is associated with only one information,
and

wherein volume is controlled in association with the position of each sound,

wherein selecting information is a single operation of selecting a sound of the maximum volume,

wherein the sound of maximum volume is selected when the user enters a sound selection indication,

wherein the selected information associated with said selected sound indicates an operation to be performed with respect to the selected sound, and

wherein the operation is performed when or after the information is selected by said sound selection means.

41.-42. (Canceled).

43. (Currently Amended) An information selection apparatus selecting desired information, and including a sound source, said information selection apparatus comprising:

means for storing an association between each of a plurality of information and at least one sound,

means for time-controlling a position of each sound independently, and

means for selecting sound,

wherein said sound selection means selects information associated with said sound,

wherein each sound is associated with only one information, and

wherein volume is controlled in association with the position of each sound,

wherein selecting information is a single operation of selecting a sound of the maximum volume,

wherein the sound of maximum volume is selected when the user enters a sound selection indication,

wherein at least one sound is associated with only an operation and at least one sound is associated with information to be selected, and

wherein the operation is performed when or after the information is selected by said sound selection means.

44. (Currently Amended) An information selection apparatus, based on a plurality of sounds, allowing selection of a ~~selecting a desired signal from signals associated with respective said information source from a plurality of sounds~~ information sources, ~~and including a sound source,~~ said information selection apparatus comprising:

~~means for sequentially switching said plurality of information sources as audio information and presenting the audio information by said sound source, and~~

~~means for selecting audio information relevant to a desired information source from the presented audio information,~~

~~wherein at least one audio information is associated with only an operation and at least one audio information is associated with information to be selected~~

sound presentation means, indication means, selecting means,
and control means, wherein

said signal includes at least an operation indication signal,

said operation indication signal indicating an operation
set in correspondence with each said operation indication
signal,

said sound presentation means outputs said plurality of sounds
circularly in accordance with an elapse in time,

said indication means provides a select indication operated
from an external source to said selecting means,

said selecting means selects, based on sound presented when
said select indication is provided, said signal associated with
said sound,

said control means performs an operation set in correspondence
with said operation indication signal when said signal selected by
said selecting means is said operation indication signal, and

wherein the operation is performed when or after the
information is selected by said sound selection means.

45. (Canceled).

46. (New) The information selection apparatus of claim 11,
further comprising:

sound presentation means, indication means, selecting means,

and control means, wherein

said signal includes an audio output indication signal and an operation indication signal,

said audio output indication signal indicating output of audio contents information set in correspondence with each said audio output indication signal,

said operation indication signal indicating an operation set in correspondence with each said operation indication signal,

said sound presentation means outputs said plurality of sounds circularly in accordance with an elapse in time,

said indication means provides a select indication operated from an external source to said selecting means,

said selecting means selects, based on sound presented when said select indication is provided, said signal associated with said sound, and

said control means outputs audio contents information set in correspondence with said audio output indication signal when said signal selected by said selecting means is said audio output indication signal, and performs an operation set in correspondence with said operation indication signal when said selected signal is said operation indication signal.